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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/712,432	11/12/2003	Richard L. Coulson	5038-341	8701

7590 09/22/2004

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EXAMINER

LE, TOAN K

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2824

DATE MAILED: 09/22/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/712,432	Applicant(s) COULSON, RICHARD L.	
	Examiner Toan Le	Art Unit 2824	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 and 20-28 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 16-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11/12/03</u> . | 6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>East search history</u> . |

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. This office acknowledge receipt of the following items from the Applicant:
Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed on November 12, 2003.
2. Information disclosed and list on PTO 1449 was considered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bruce et al.
(US 6,000,006).

Bruce et al. disclose a method comprising comparing a random number to a predetermined threshold according to a criterion; and if the random number meets the criterion, incrementing a counter (see col. 3, lines 4-30) which is used in a destructive read memory and is used in a poly ferroelectric as a flash memory (see col.40-60).

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 1-15 and 20-28 are allowable over the art of record.
6. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:
The prior art does not teach or suggest a method and a semiconductor memory device having a destructive read process comprising a metadata block within a block of memory, and a counter within the metadata block for being operable to track usage of a sector of memory cells

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associated with the metadata block as recited in the independent claims 1 and 20. Also, the prior art of record does not teach or suggest a method comprising updating an error correction code to produce an update error correction code which includes new data from a memory access cycle and an incremented counter as recited in the independent claims 6 and 26; if a random number has a predetermined relationship to a scalling threshold, writing a incremented counter to a metadata block of a memory as recited in the independent claim 13.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Coulson (US. 2003/0046493) disclose a memory device similar to that of Bruce et al.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Toan Le whose telephone number is (571) 272-1872. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8.00AM - 5.30PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Elms can be reached on (571) 272-1869. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TL
September 20, 2004



MICHAEL S. LEBENTRITT
PRIMARY EXAMINER